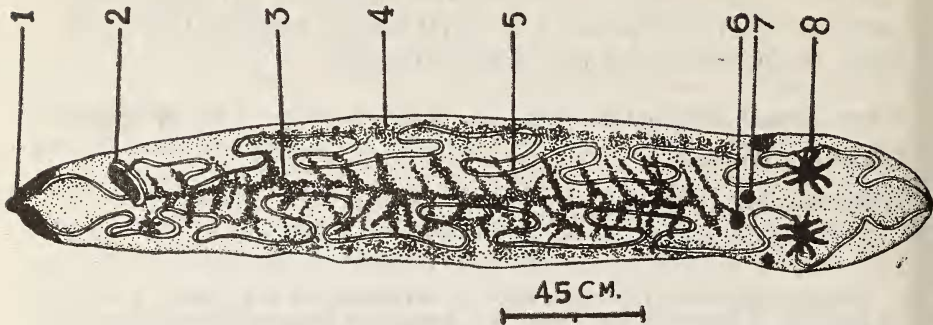


and fish scales which constituted the bulk of the stomach content of the turtle.



- (1) Anterior sucker, (2) Cirrus pouch, (3) Uterine coils, (4) Vitellaria, (5) Caeca, (6) Ootype, (7) Ovary, (8) Testis.

Description: Body slender; head collar not divided. Oral sucker narrow and small. Oesophagus short, caeca narrow waviness terminating at posterior end. Testes branched; cirrus pouch short, oblique, covering part of seminal vesicles. Genital pore near left margin of body just behind the intestinal bifurcation. Ovary anterior to testis; vitellaria consisting of small follicles extends antero-laterally. Uterine coils extend medially up to cirrus pouch. Eggs numerous.

Some specimens had blood in the caecum indicating their blood-sucking habit.

According to Deraniyagala (1939, P. 44, TETRAPOD REPTILES OF CEYLON) *Astrorchis renicapite* is the only intestinal parasite so far known from *Dermochelys coriacea*. The fact that the same species of parasite infests the leathery turtle of Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions may be of interest in view of the divergent opinions (Deraniyagala op. cit.) on the identity of the leathery turtle of different regions.

I am thankful to Dr. R. V. Nair, Deputy Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mandapam Camp for going through this note critically and offering his suggestions.

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
MANDAPAM CAMP,
October 6, 1970.

R. S. LAL MOHAN

31. A CORAL TREE FROM NEPAL

The coral tree is a popular ornamental tree in gardens all over the world. In Nepal, some years ago one wild-growing species of this plant was collected from Shivpuri mountain (about 8,000 feet), which was

identified as *Erythrina arborescens* Roxb. Dr. Roxburgh had made the following observation about this plant in his (1832) FLORA INDICA :

“ From Nepal, Dr. Buchanan (later Sir Francis Hamilton and one-time Superintendent of the Honourable East India Company's Botanical Garden) sent seeds to the Botanical Gardens where plants blossomed for the first time in October. In April Dr. B. observed it to be a small tree ten to twelve feet in height; here in seven years they are only five or six feet high and with but few branches.”

The plant which is characterised by prickly stem, tri-foliolate cordate leaves and flowers borne in packed flaming red arrow-shaped racemes, grows locally more than 40 feet in height. It blossoms during August till middle of October, after which it sheds old leaves. The branches are borne in the form of a crown, which are limited in number.

Its size, ease of cultivation and attractive flowers all make it suitable for growing in gardens.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
TRI-CHANDRA COLLEGE,
KATHMANDU, NEPAL,
December 28, 1970.

DIBYA DEO BHATT

32. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *AMARANTHUS LIVIDUS* LINN. SSP. *POLYGONOIDES* (MOQ.) PROBST. AND *FIMBRISTYLIS ALBOVIRIDIS* CLARKE IN W. BENGAL

Amaranthus lividus Linn. ssp. *polygonoides* (Moq.) Probst. in Wool Aliens 1949.

Euoxolus viridis (Linn.) Moq. var. *polygonoides* Moq. in DC. Prodr. 13(2) : 274. 1849.

Much branched prostrate to suberect herb growing in waste-lands, preferably on heaped soil or tilled ground. Flowering and fruiting in January to April. In Howrah district common at Dumjoor and rare in other places. Regarding the confusion between this taxon and *Amaranthus polygonoides* Linn. see Naik, *Indian Forester* 95 : 415-416. 1969.

Specimens examined : Bennet 528.

Fimbristylis alboviridis Clarke in Fl. Brit. Ind. 6 : 638. 1893; Kern in Blumea 8 : 140. 1955.

25-45 cm. high, erect. Umbels lax. Spikelets 3.5-6 mm. long. Grows along the sides of railway lines among bushes and shrubs; prefers shade; rare in Howrah district, collected from Dakshinmaju and Padmapukur. Flowering and fruiting in April to August.

Kern stated, “Considered to be endemic in Assam *F. alboviridis* appears to be rather widely distributed in Malaysia. However, it is rare everywhere.”